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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/489,198	01/20/2000	Shigeaki Kato	06501-054001	5541

7590 11/26/2001

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EXAMINER

MURPHY, JOSEPH F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2001

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/489,198

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph F Murphy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

The Election/Restriction of Paper No. 9, 5/29/2001 has been withdrawn. A new Election/Restriction is set forth below. The Examiner regrets the inconvenience.

***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-5, 19-20, 22-24 drawn to a polynucleotide which hybridizes to a DNA having the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, a DNA sequence encoding SEQ ID NO: 1, and a host cell comprising a vector, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- II. Claims 6-7, drawn to a method for screening a ligand, classified in class 435, subclass 7.8.
- III. Claim 12, drawn to a ligand that binds a nuclear receptor, classified in class 530, subclass 300.
- IIII. Claims 13-14, drawn to a gene encoding s polypeptide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- V. Claims 15, 17, drawn to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- VI. Claims 16, 18, drawn to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- VII. Claim 21, drawn to a polynucleotide which hybridizes to a DNA having the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.

- VIII. Claim 25, drawn to an antibody, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1.
- IX. Claim 26, drawn to a method for screening a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts an inactive form of transcriptional regulatory factor into an active form, classified in class 435, subclass 7.2.
- X. Claim 8-11, drawn to a method for screening a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and III-VIII are independent and distinct, each from the other, because they are products which possess characteristic differences in structure and function, and each has an independent utility, that is distinct for each invention which cannot be exchanged.

Inventions II and IX-X are independent and distinct, each from the other, because the methods are practiced with materially different starting materials, have materially different process steps, and are for materially different purposes.

Inventions II and III are independent and distinct, each from the other, because the structure of the ligand is independent of the means of identifying it, especially as the functional assay of group II would reasonably be expected to identify numerous ligands having distinct structures and functions.

Inventions I and (IX-X) are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP

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§ 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polynucleotide of invention I can be used in the production of protein.

Invention II is unrelated to inventions I and III-VIII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together.

Inventions (IX-X) are unrelated to inventions III-VIII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and separate classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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***Advisory Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Murphy whose telephone number is 703-305-7245.


The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on 703-308-6564. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-308-0294 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Joseph F. Murphy, Ph. D.  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1646  
November 8, 2001



PREMA MERTZ  
PRIMARY EXAMINER